

Date:

## MARY CHILTON ABBOT'S

### WASHINGTON WATCH

# Berle's Invasion Role Criticized

WASHINGTON — State Department insiders are still betting that Allen Dulles will be replaced as head of the Central Intelligence Agency. Privately they say that the lion's share of the blame for the Cuban fiasco can be laid at the door of Adolph A. Berle.

Berle is a longtime State Department career man whose field is Latin American affairs. He served as a member of the Kennedy task force on Latin America and currently his title is special assistant to the secretary of state and coordinator of the interdepartmental task force.

He is known among intimates as a colossal egotist who reportedly turned down the post of assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs because it wasn't made an under secretaryship at his demand. The post is still vacant because no one cares to serve in it as long as Berle is in the picture.

In his role in the Cuban invasion, Berle effected one large success. It was due to his efforts that the divergent rebel groups were drawn together into a cohesive unit—some have called it a shotgun wedding—and then welded into a fighting force.

But unfortunately it is becoming increasingly apparent that the Cubans received assurances of United States participation in the invasion which were considerably in excess of its actual participation — and Berle seems to be the man who made those assurances.



Abbott

THE GREATEST tragedy of the whole business is that despite the investigation which is still in progress and which is attempting to pin down responsibility for the unwise decisions which were made, the Cuban side of the story—which could shed a great deal of light—will probably never be told to those who should hear it.

Nonetheless, Berle will probably be replaced, along with Allen Dulles who, rumor has it, will bow out gracefully as soon as the CIA is settled in its new home in Virginia. Dulles was largely responsible for persuading Congress of the need for the new headquarters. Present plans are for the move to take place in September which would give Dulles approximately another six months in office.

Retired Gen. Maxwell Taylor still leads the speculative list of names of probable successors to Dulles although some people are wary of placing a military man in that post. The attempts to transfer control of CIA to the Pentagon and to give Congress a more direct budgetary voice in the running of the agency probably will fail, as they should. The director of CIA should be a member of the executive department directly responsible to the President—and no one else.

NEXT HOT SPOT in the Caribbean area will undoubtedly be the misgoverned, economically beleaguered country of Haiti. The current President, Francois Duvalier, has systematically squashed every form of opposition with tactics which are so utterly ruthless that they defy description.

Haiti's poverty is so extreme that tourists literally cannot believe their eyes. The soil will barely support even a meager crop, the country alternates droughts with floods—erosion has swept most of the arable land into sea.

Compounding Haiti's problems have been a series of governments which are completely corrupt and which endure only until the opposition gathers enough strength to stage a revolution. Generally the president, cynically aware of the future in store for him—there are no ex-presidents in Haiti—has already shipped out sufficient money to ensure a life of ease in the United States or some other country, makes his getaway and steps ahead of the guns.

But now there appears to be no significant underground movement. Anyone in Haiti who has money left after two disastrous years is rapidly making plans to emigrate and apparently no one much wants to be president of a republic which is degenerating so quickly.

It is obvious that the Communists don't want Haiti. If Trujillo had wanted it, it has lain across the map since it was virtually there in the 1930s. In recent months, the future of Haiti at this point appears to be nothing more than total anarchy.

Even massive U.S. aid hardly be expected to turn the tide as long as the government remains so unresponsive. Possibly the United States might do something—but it's hard to see just what. It would be a tragedy if one of the oldest republics in the Western Hemisphere were to be allowed simply to cease to exist.

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